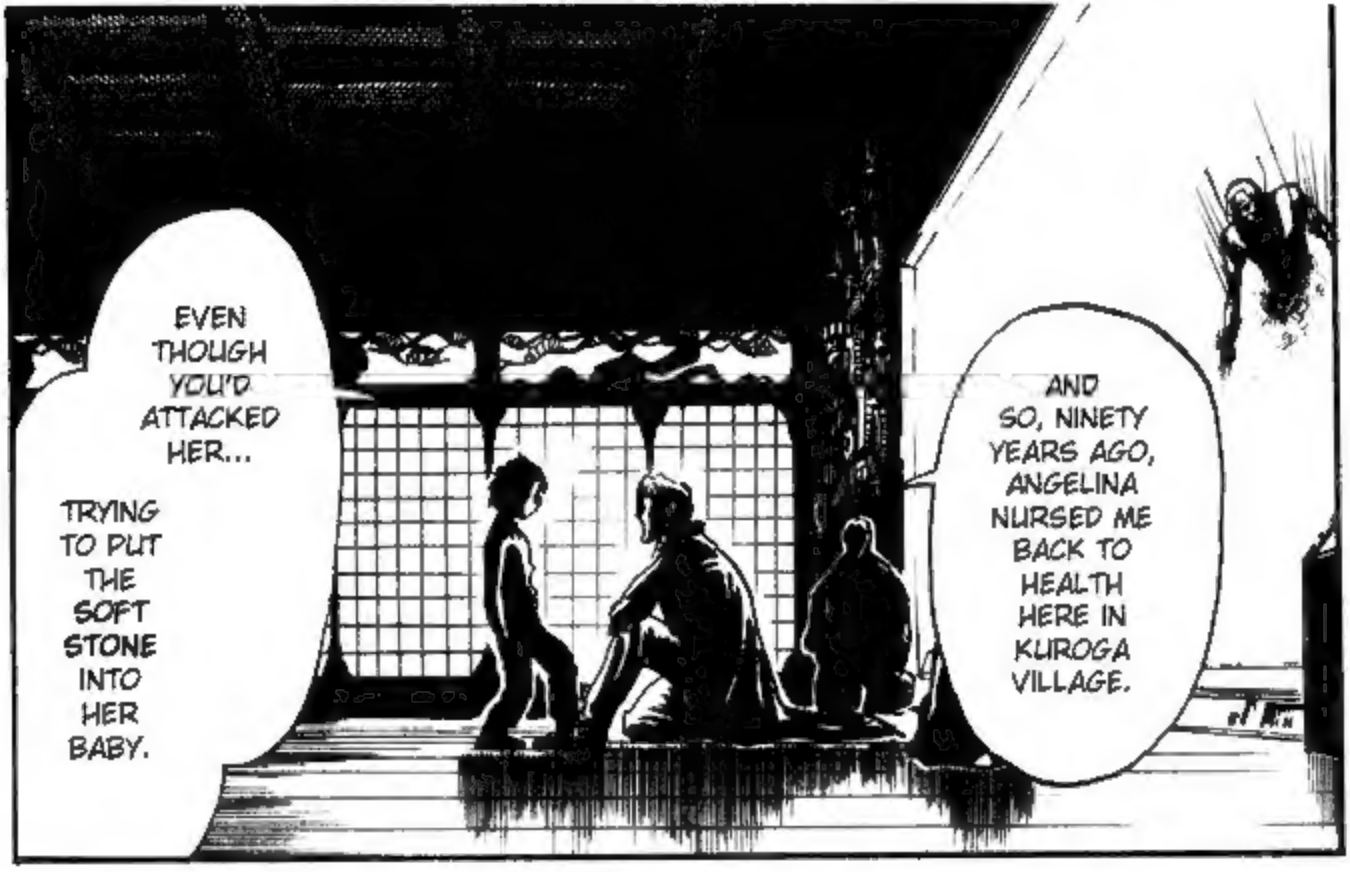
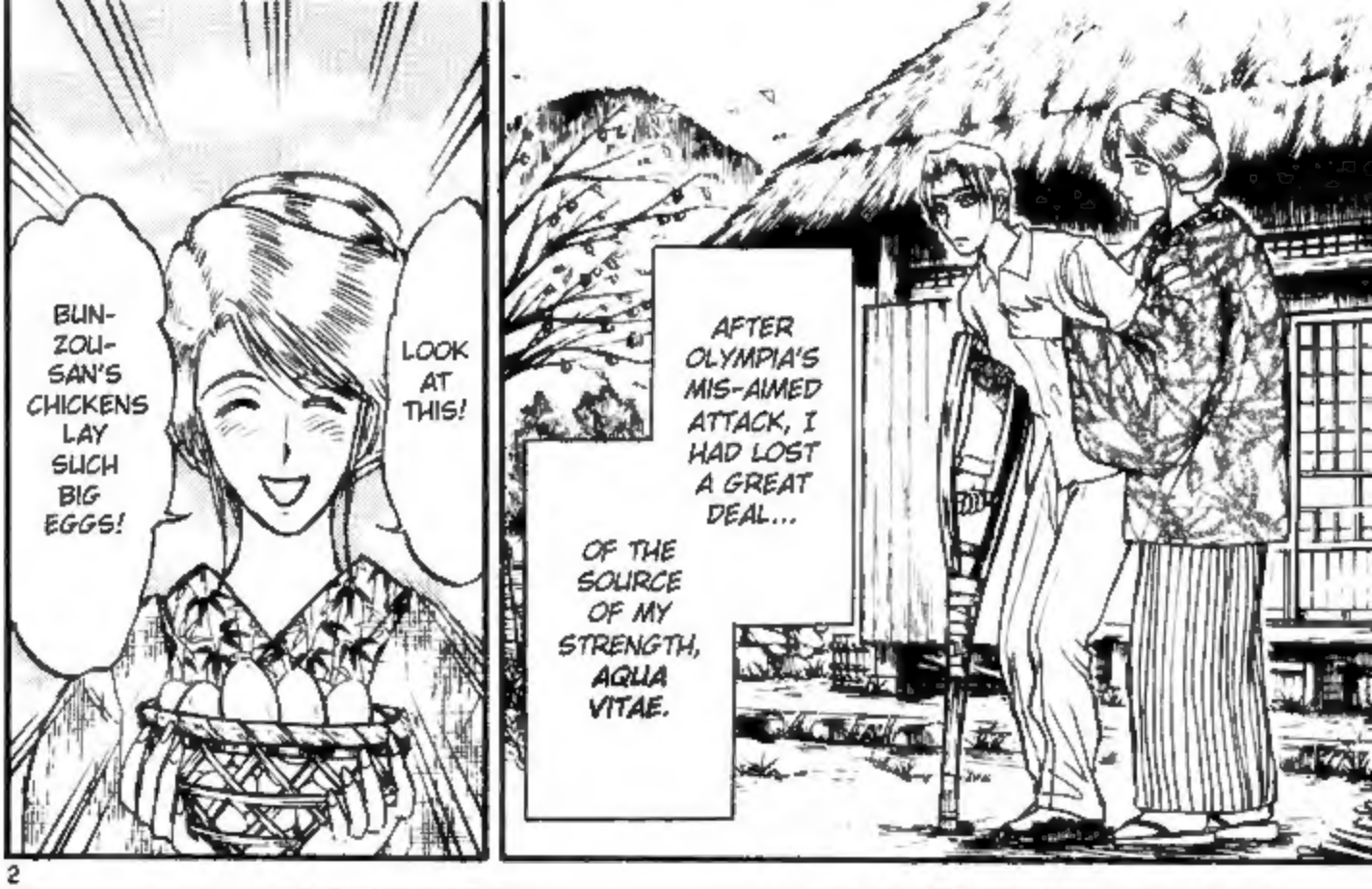

EVEN THOUGH YOU'D ATTACKED HER...
TRYING TO PUT THE SOFT STONE INTO HER BABY.
AND SO, NINETY YEARS AGO, ANGELINA NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH HERE IN KUROGA VILLAGE.

Act 27
Doll Francine Comes To Kuroga Village


LOOK AT THIS!
BUN-ZOU-SAN'S CHICKENS LAY SUCH BIG EGGS!
AFTER OLYMPIA'S MIS-AIMED ATTACK, I HAD LOST A GREAT DEAL...
OF THE SOURCE OF MY STRENGTH, AQUA VITAE.

2

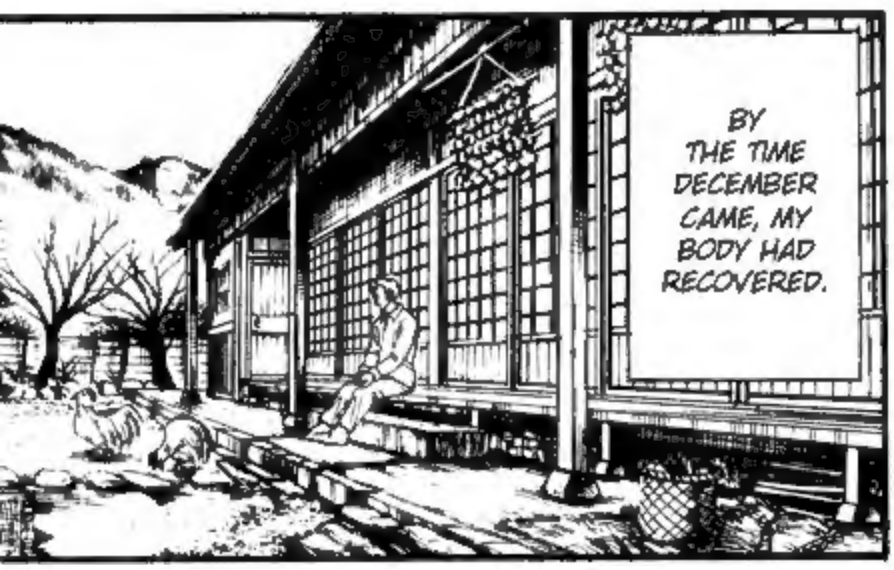
I SPOKE VERY LITTLE DURING THIS PERIOD.

THAT MEANS OMELETTES TODAY!

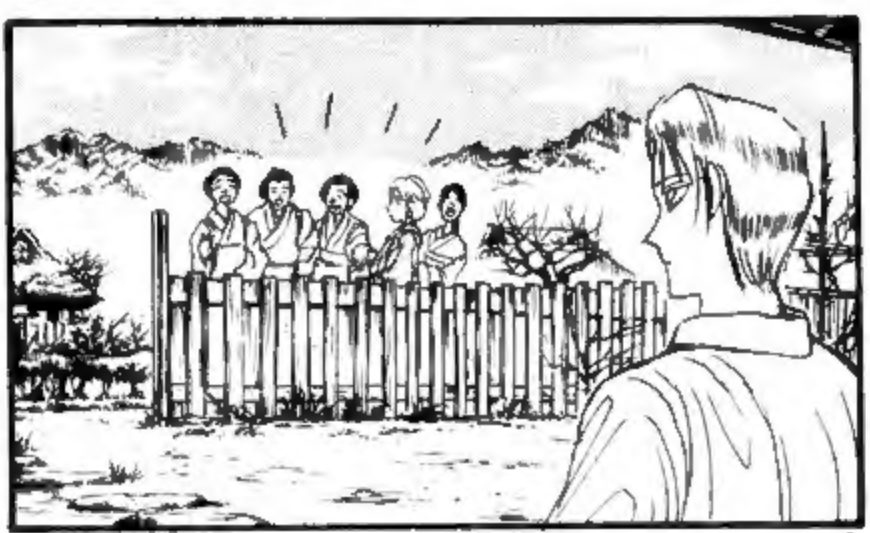
I'M SORRY, THOUGH. HER FACE AND WINGS AREN'T DONE YET. I'LL GET TO THEM SOON.
... OLYM-PIA.

I'VE DONE SOME REPAIRS ON THAT MARIONETTE OF YOURS. COME AND SEE.

DO YOU THINK I WON'T USE THIS TO ATTACK YOU A SECOND TIME...?
OH, DEAR, WILL YOU? WHATEVER SHOULD I DO?


BY THE TIME DECEMBER CAME, MY BODY HAD RECOVERED.

THIS WOMAN IS GOING TO DRIVE ME OUT OF MY MIND...



3

MY MISSION ALL ALONG HAS BEEN TO INSERT THE SOFT STONE INTO HER CHILD AND TRANSPORT IT BACK TO FRANCE.

...HMPH. I'M NOT SO SENTIMENTAL YET THAT I COULDN'T CARRY OUT MY ORDERS RIGHT NOW.

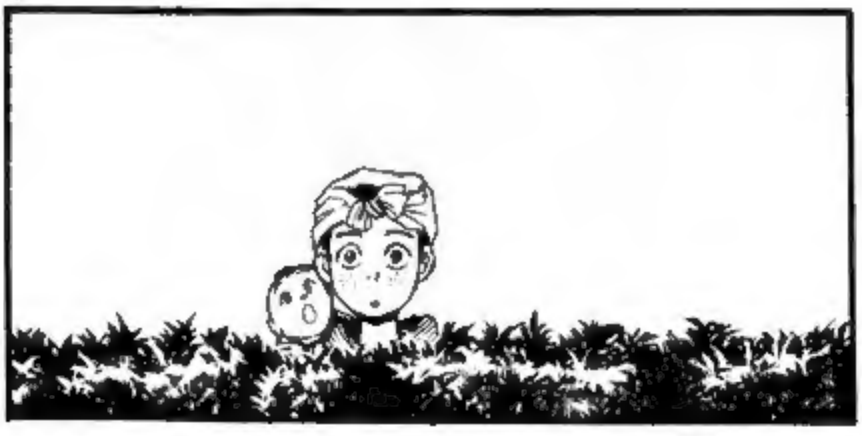
IF YOU'D LIKE, I COULD BE YOUR MAMAN.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR THAT...
EVEN AFTER THE CHILD IS BORN.

I COULD BE YOUR MAMAN.
IF YOU'D LIKE...

.....

TCH.
WHAT KIND OF NON-SENSE ...
カラン



...

SFX: CHEERING AND SHRIEKING

SFX: CHEERING, GIMME GIMME!

SFX: MORE EXCITED YELLING

...AREN'T YOU GOING TO RUN OUT OF CANDY LIKE THAT?
.....
COME ON, MAKE A LINE OVER THERE! LET THE SMALLER CHILDREN HAVE THE BIGGER ONES.
HEY! THAT'S YOUR SECOND, ISN'T IT?! THESE ARE VERY HIGH-CLASS CANDIES, YOU KNOW!
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ね!
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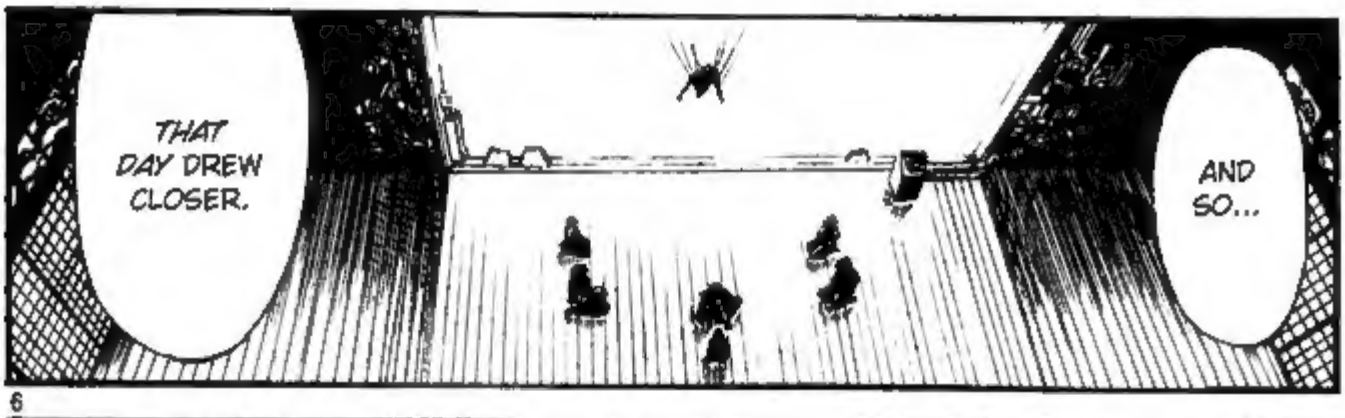
ねぇねぇ

I DON'T WANT THEM ANYMORE, ANYWAY.
HMPH.

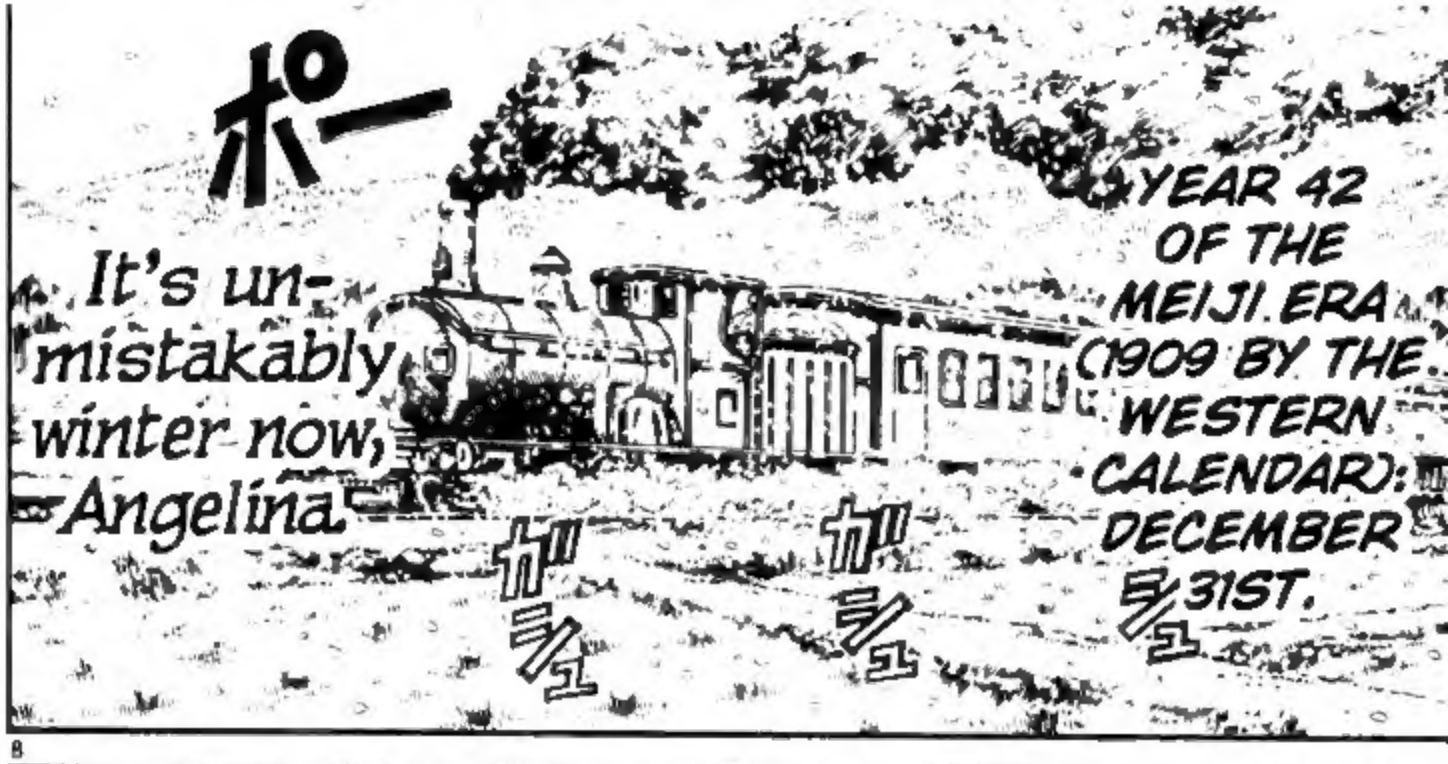

THAT DAY DREW CLOSER.
AND SO...

YES. AND ONCE YOU'VE LEARNED THE FULL STORY, YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE.
I SEE... SO I'VE GOTTA WATCH THAT ONE, HUH?

IT SHOULD ALREADY BE IN YOUR MEMORIES.
THAT DAY...?

AFTER YOU DRANK THE BLOOD CONTAINING SHOUJI'S MEMORIES...

BUT I'M GONNA SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END!
JUST LIKE GRANDPA DID WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.
WHAT?
UH-UH.
I'M NOT GONNA BE DYING, GUY-SAN.
DEC-EMBER 31ST, 1909.
WHAT DAY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
HIS FACE... IT'S CHANGED SOME-HOW...?!
7
SFX: VWOOM
GOT IT.
I'LL GO LOOK!


ポー
It's unmistakably winter now, Angelina
YEAR 42 OF THE MEIJI ERA (1909 BY THE WESTERN CALENDAR): DECEMBER 31ST.
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8

I am headed there now in the company of a being that you might call our enemy above all other enemies.
ゴトトン
カッタタン

You've told me about Guy-kun in your letters.
But I have some shocking news of my own to report.
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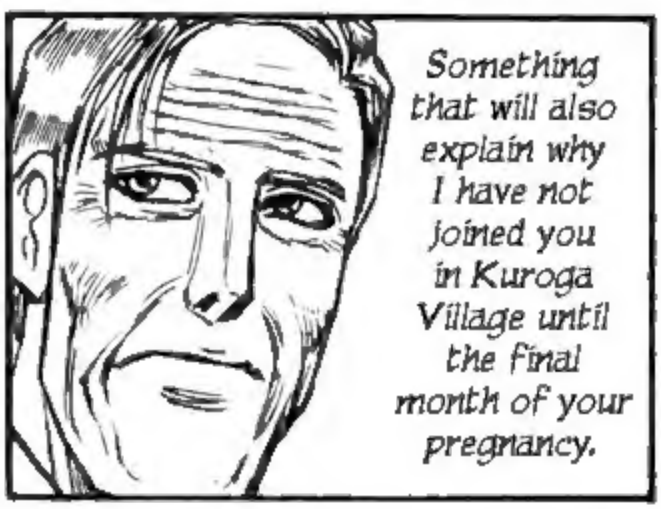
カタタン


Something that will also explain why I have not joined you in Kuroga Village until the final month of your pregnancy.

I will explain the particulars to you later, but in essence: she appeared before me openly...

Yes, the leader of the Automata whom we Shirogane have pursued for so long.
Her name is Doll Francine!

At first, I took it for some kind of trap.
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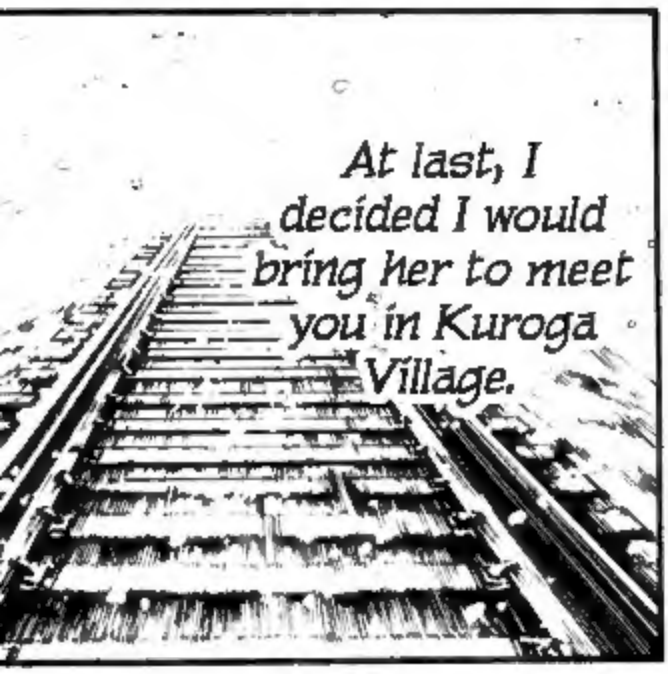
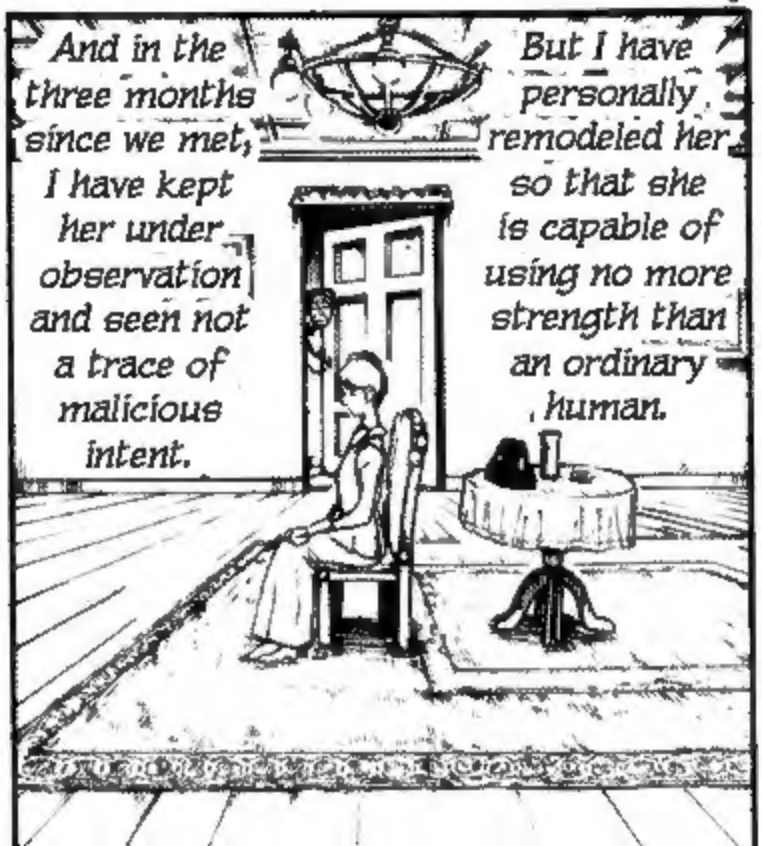
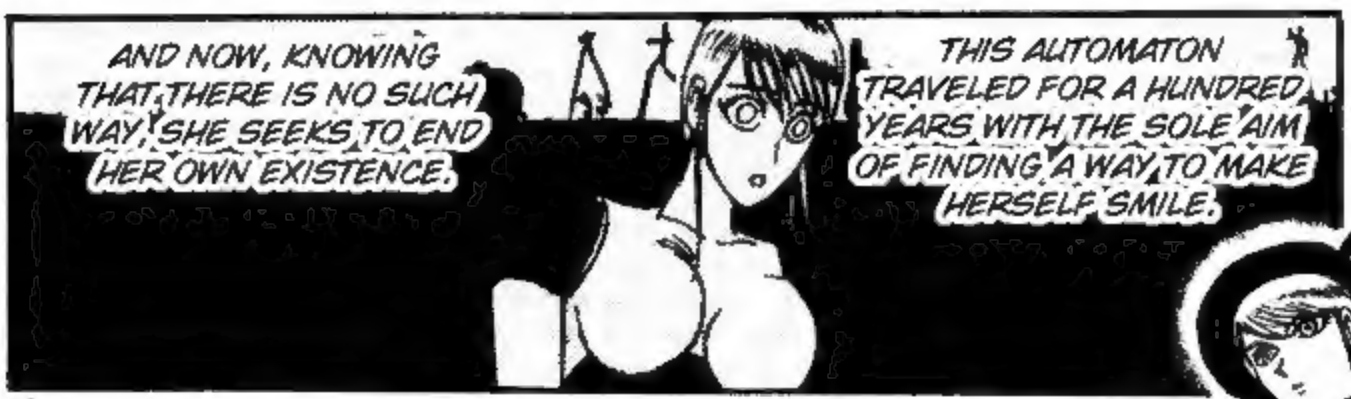
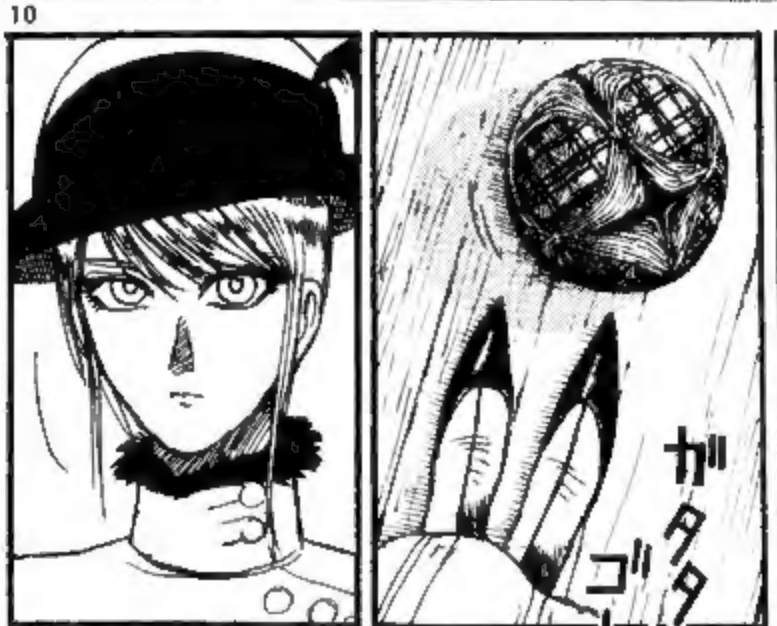
...seeking to be dismantled by Saiga Angelina., a name she knew by your signature.

9

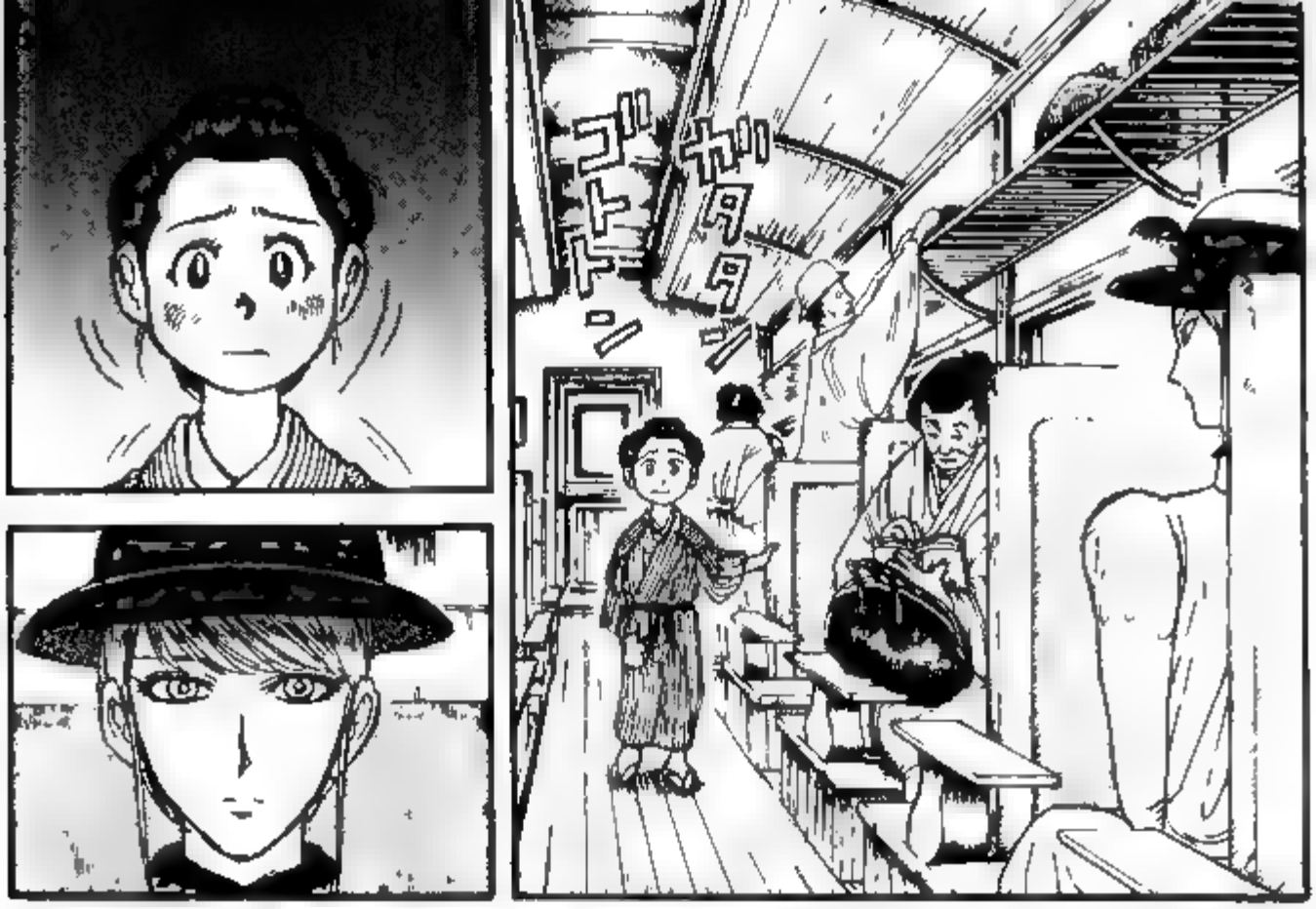

At last, I decided I would bring her to meet you in Kuroga Village.


And in the three months since we met, I have kept her under observation and seen not a trace of malicious intent.
But I have personally remodeled her so that she is capable of using no more strength than an ordinary human.


AND NOW, KNOWING THAT THERE IS NO SUCH WAY, SHE SEEKS TO END HER OWN EXISTENCE.
THIS AUTOMATON TRAVELED FOR A HUNDRED YEARS WITH THE SOLE AIM OF FINDING A WAY TO MAKE HERSELF SMILE.

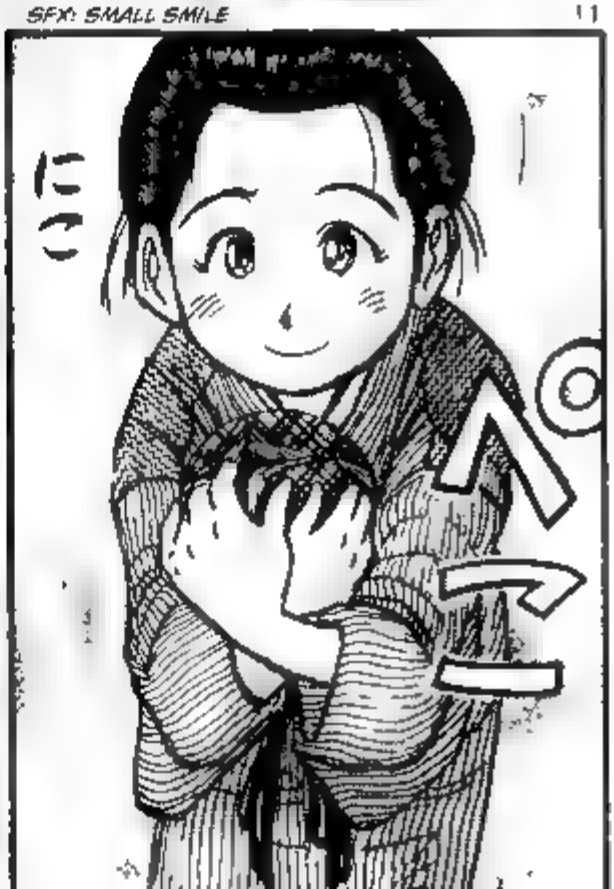


SFX: ROLLING, CLUNKING

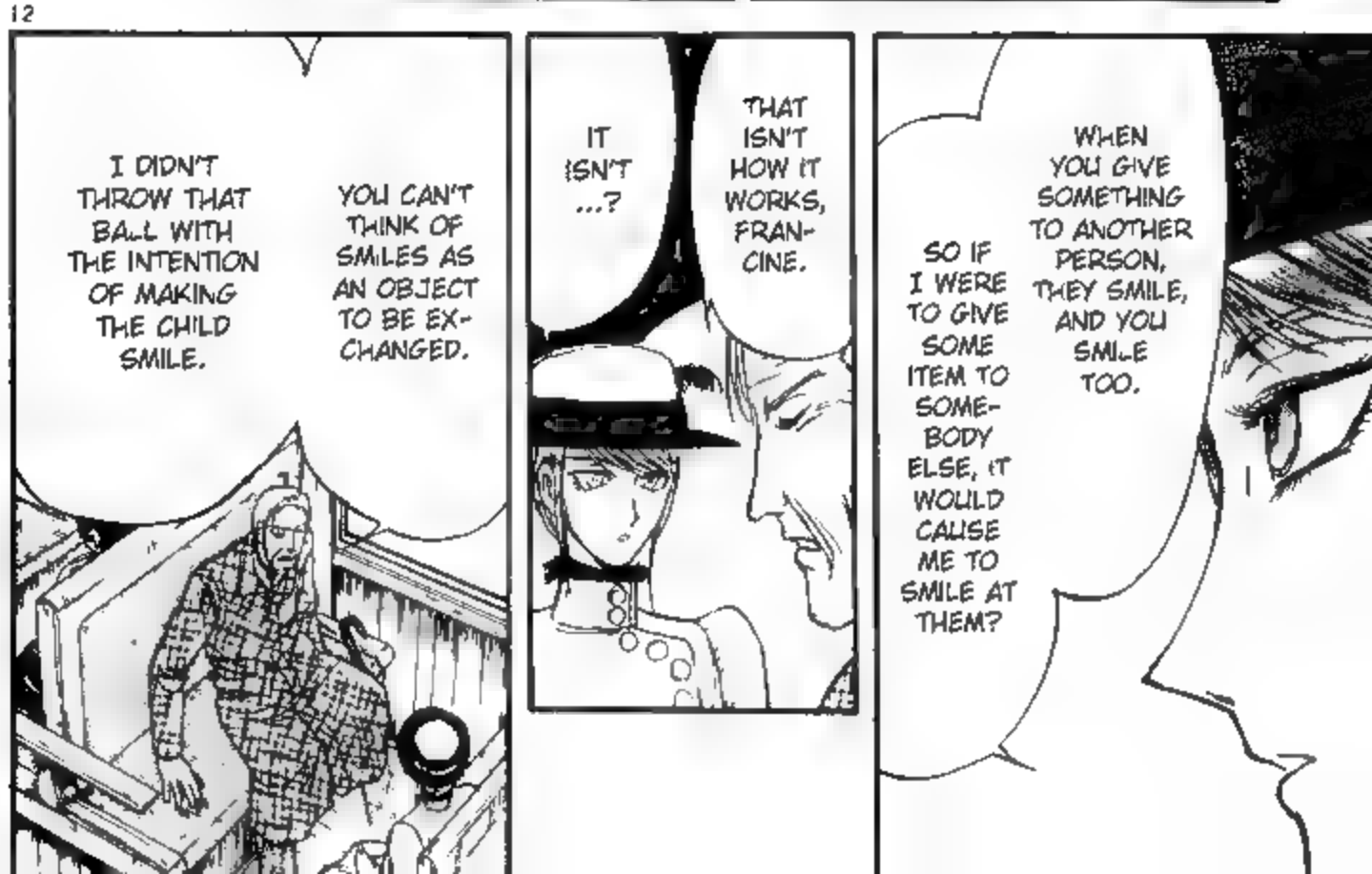


SFX: BIG SMILE

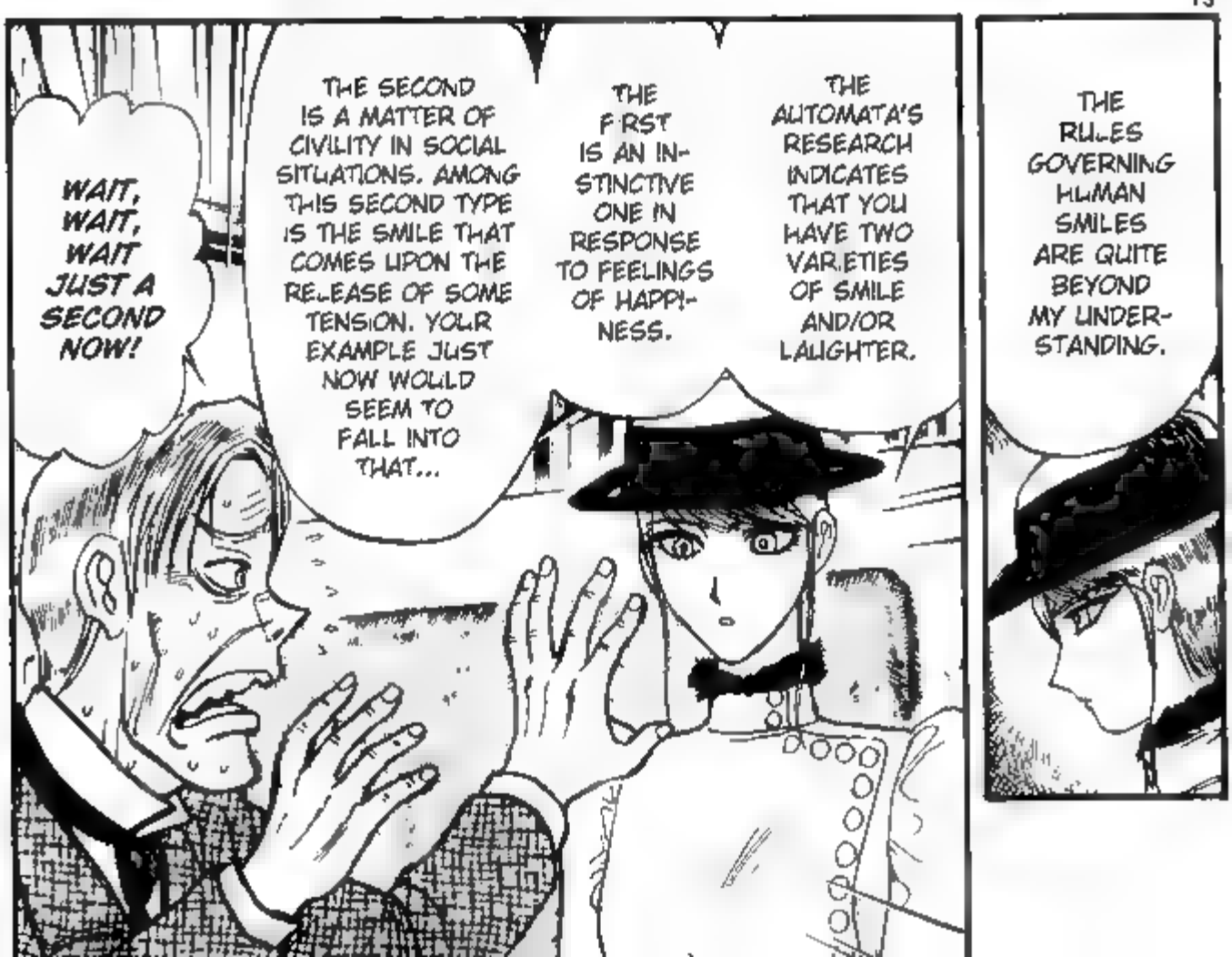
SFX: SMALL SMILE

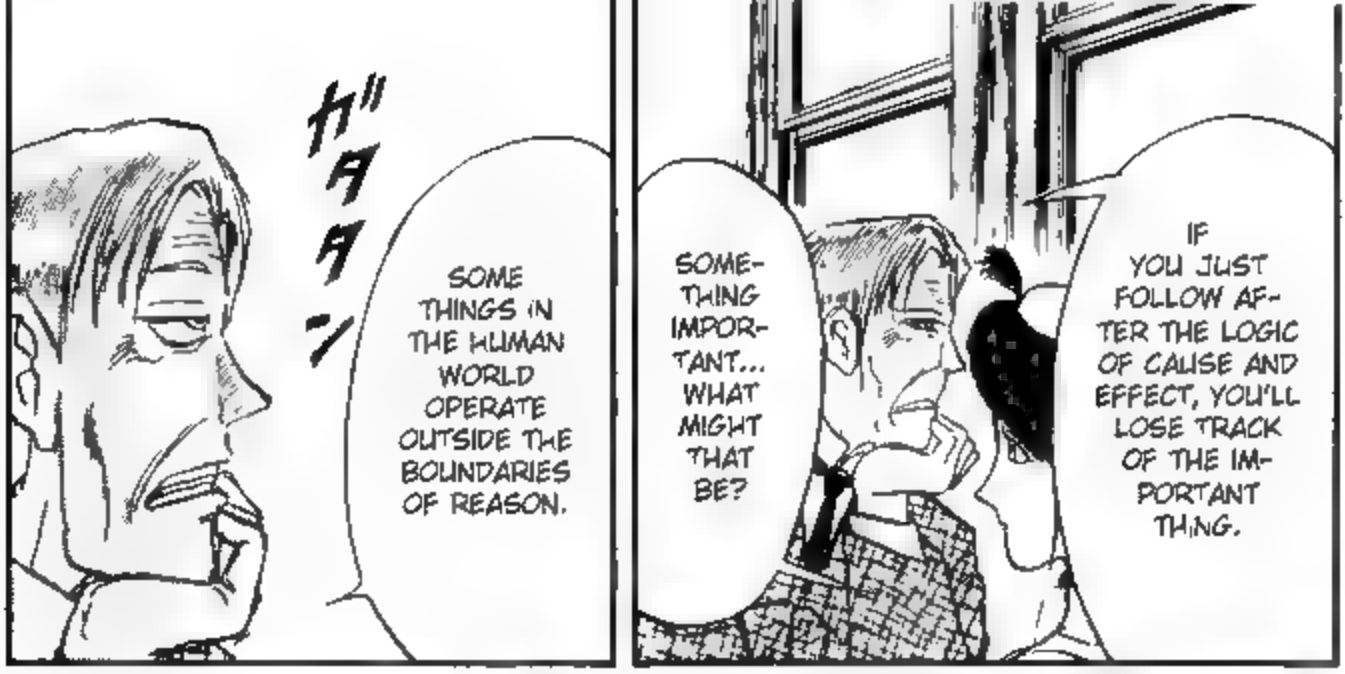


IT WAS BECAUSE I DID NOT THROW THE BALL THAT THE CHILD WAS NOT SMILING.
WHEN YOU THREW THE BALL, THAT CHILD SMILED. AND THEN YOU SMILED.
HM?
YOU SMILED ...


I DIDN'T THROW THAT BALL WITH THE INTENTION OF MAKING THE CHILD SMILE.
YOU CAN'T THINK OF SMILES AS AN OBJECT TO BE EXCHANGED.
IT ISN'T ...?
THAT ISN'T HOW IT WORKS, FRANCINE.
SO IF I WERE TO GIVE SOME ITEM TO SOMEBODY ELSE, IT WOULD CAUSE ME TO SMILE AT THEM?
WHEN YOU GIVE SOMETHING TO ANOTHER PERSON, THEY SMILE, AND YOU SMILE TOO.

OF YOUR OWN ACCORD ...?
I DID ALL THAT OF MY OWN ACCORD, WITHOUT ANY INFLUENCE FROM HER.
AND I DIDN'T SMILE BECAUSE SHE SMILED.
I SEE ...
BESIDES, IF SOMEONE DID SMILE AT YOU, THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'D NECESSARILY HAVE ANY REASON TO SMILE BACK.
SHE DIDN'T SMILE OUT OF DUTY, EITHER. SHE WASN'T DOING IT TO REPAY ME FOR THROWING THE BALL.


WAIT, WAIT, WAIT JUST A SECOND NOW!
THE SECOND IS A MATTER OF CIVILITY IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS. AMONG THIS SECOND TYPE IS THE SMILE THAT COMES UPON THE RELEASE OF SOME TENSION. YOUR EXAMPLE JUST NOW WOULD SEEM TO FALL INTO THAT...
THE FIRST IS AN INSTINCTIVE ONE IN RESPONSE TO FEELINGS OF HAPPINESS.
THE AUTOMATA'S RESEARCH INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE TWO VARIETIES OF SMILE AND/OR LAUGHTER.
THE RULES GOVERNING HUMAN SMILES ARE QUITE BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING.


ガタン
SOME THINGS IN THE HUMAN WORLD OPERATE OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF REASON.
SOMETHING IMPORTANT... WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?
IF YOU JUST FOLLOW AFTER THE LOGIC OF CAUSE AND EFFECT, YOU'LL LOSE TRACK OF THE IMPORTANT THING.

I GUESS I'LL JUST SAY THIS...
WELL, IT'S PRETTY TRICKY EVEN FOR A HUMAN LIKE ME.
...I DO NOT UNDERSTAND ...

ASK FOR NOTHING IN RETURN...
WHEN I...
カサッ
カサッ

A SMILE IS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS ...
WHEN YOU AREN'T ASKING FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN.

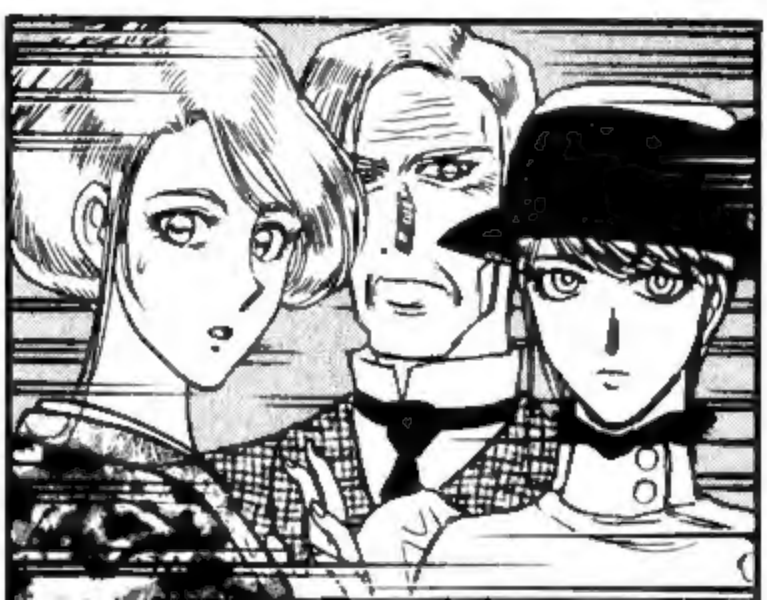
'S
OH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HEEEY, FOLKS! SHOUJI-SAMA'S ARRIVED!

GUY, COME ALONG! I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
COM-IIING!

YOU REALLY DO LOOK JUST LIKE ME...

FRANCIINE!
I AM PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE. I--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE...



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GUY-KUN, WAIT!
BUT AS A SHIRO-GANE, I'M HAPPY TO TURN YOU INTO SCRAP WOOD NONE-THE-LESS!
SFX: SCREAMING

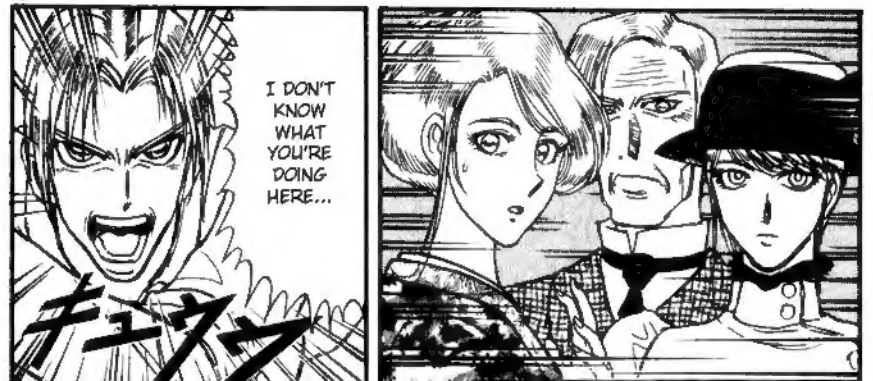
AN-GELINA, WHAT'S WRONG ?!
!!!

GUY, NO! I WANT TO HEAR WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY!
DON'T TRY TO ARGUE WITH ME!

UGH ...!
I...!!
SFX: BA-DUMP

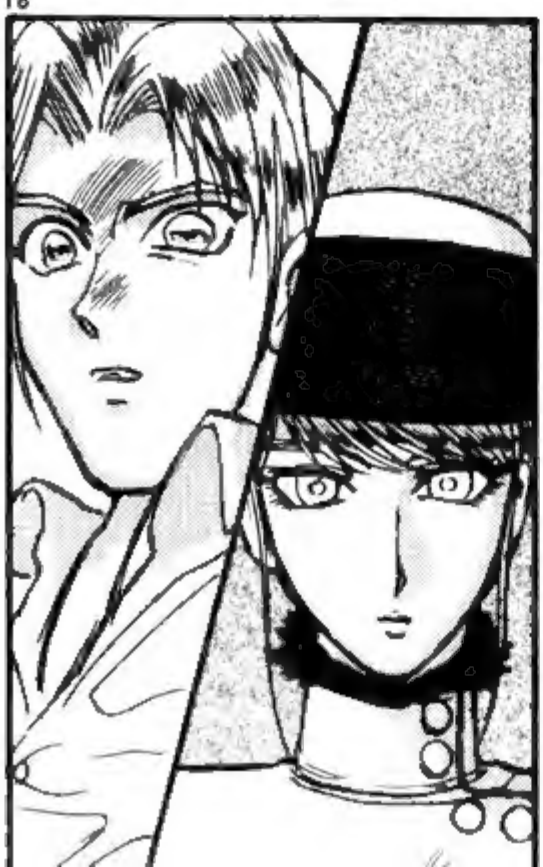
YOU REALLY DO LOOK JUST LIKE ME...

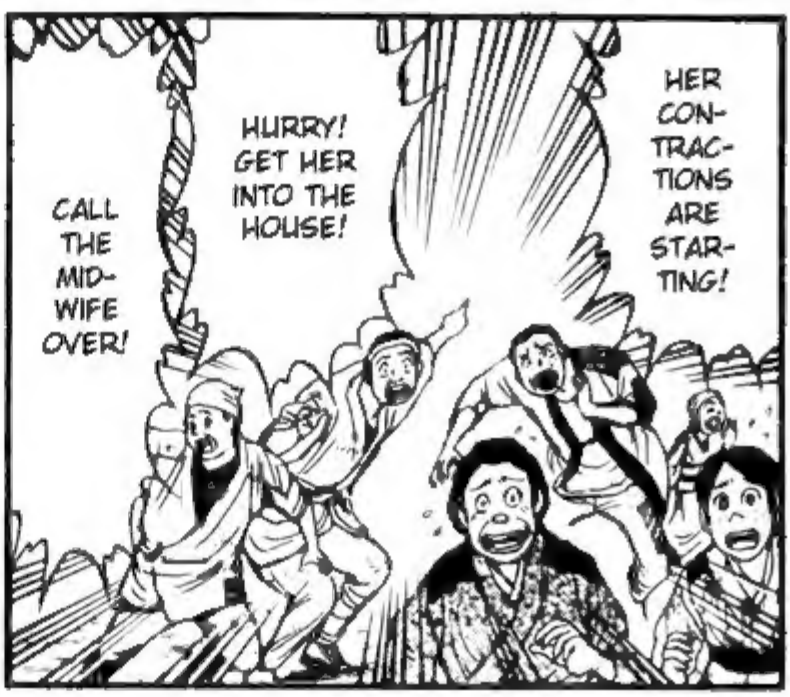
FRANCIINE!
I AM PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE. I—


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE...

THE... BABY...
THE BABY'S COMING ...

18




CALL THE MID-WIFE OVER!
HURRY! GET HER INTO THE HOUSE!
HER CON-TRAC-TIONS ARE STAR-TING!

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

Kodansha's English-language release of *Black Museum: The Ghost and the Lady* (Book 1) is now out! Please consider buying it to show your support for Fujita's work, and please **don't** mention scanlations of his other manga to anyone involved in the official release!

NOTES:

pg. 5:

Guy and his *maman* use キャンディー (*kyandii*), a loanword from the English *candy*; everyone else uses the Japanese word アメ (*ame*).

pg. 9:

Doll Francine uses アンヂェリィナ to refer to Angelina; this is a slightly older way of writing the soft "g" and elongated "ii" sound in a foreign name, and it's how Angelina actually signed her name on the gears due to the time period. Everyone else uses アンジェリーナ, which has basically the same pronunciation. Shouji's original line is that Doll Francine was looking for Saiga Angelina written as 才賀アンヂェリィナ, but there's no way to convey the difference in romaji.

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.